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Dr. Marc Edwards

NY Times: Marc Edwards, the 'Troublemaker' Scientist in the Flint Water

Crisis<[http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/15603/ny\\_times\\_marc\\_edwards\\_the\\_troublemaker\\_scientist\\_i](http://www.deadlinedetroit.com/articles/15603/ny_times_marc_edwards_the_troublemaker_scientist_i)

By Deadline Detroit 08/17/16 12:31 PM

Virginia Tech scientist Marc Edwards didn't discover the ugly problem with the Flint water system, the New York Times points out. It was LeeAnne Walters, a mother of four, who launched an investigation after her children broke out in rashes, writes free lance write and Wayne State University Professor Donovan Hohn in a lengthy, well-crafted profile in the Times on Edwards. In early 2015, Walters began investigating and got the city to conduct a test which showed dangerously high levels of lead in tap water.

Flint water crisis professor makes New York Times

headlines<[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/flint\\_water\\_crisis\\_professor\\_m.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/flint_water_crisis_professor_m.html)>

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 08/17/16 10:23 AM

The Virginia Tech professor who help push the Flint water crisis to the forefront was recently featured in The New York Times. Dr. Marc Edwards was the topic of an Aug. 16 story that talked about his involvement in helping a Flint mother, LeAnne Walters, when her children broke out in rashes. Walters launched her investigation in 2015 but her findings left her family without answers until Edwards and medical professionals stepped in.

Flint's Water Crisis and the 'Troublemaker'

Scientist<[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/21/magazine/flints-water-crisis-and-the-troublemaker-scientist.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/21/magazine/flints-water-crisis-and-the-troublemaker-scientist.html?_r=0)>

By, Donovan Hohn, The New York Times Magazine 08/16/16

Near the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Flint, Mich., there is an old pump house, the walls of which have long served as a kind of communal billboard. The Block, people call it.

People paint messages there — birthday wishes, memorials for the dead. In January, after Gov. Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency in response to Flint's water crisis, a new message appeared, addressed implicitly to Snyder but also to the world: YOU WANT OUR TRUST??? WE WANT VA TECH!!! In the history of political graffiti, "We want Va. Tech" may sound like one of the least stirring demands ever spray--painted on a wall, but in the context of Flint, it was charged with the emotion and meaning of a rallying cry.

#### MDEQ

New Michigan DEQ director set to appear for confirmation hearing Sept.

7<[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/new\\_michigan\\_deq\\_director\\_set.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/new_michigan_deq_director_set.html)>

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 08/17/16 12:06 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder's new director of the state Department of Environmental Quality is set to answer questions during a state Senate confirmation hearing Sept. 7. A spokeswoman for Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive, said the Natural Resources Committee will conduct the hearing for Heidi Grether, who started working as DEQ director Aug. 1. Grether's appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Republican-controlled Senate, which has held hearings on recent appointments by Snyder but has not blocked an appointment since the governor took office.

#### MDEQ district engineer in court for charges in Flint water

crisis<<http://nbc25news.com/news/local/mdeq-district-engineer-in-court-for-charges-in-flint-water-crisis>>

By Joel Feick, NBC 25 08/17/16

New action was taken in the criminal case involving a state official involved with the Flint water crisis. At a hearing with MDEQ District Engineer Mike Prysby, motions by his attorney were denied by Judge Jennifer Manley. Specifically, attorney Richard Hillman asked for what's called a 'Bill of Particulars,' which is basically more information from the state, but the judge said no. Assistant Attorney General Todd Flood says he's given the defense more than enough information to proceed.

#### Michigan DEQ exec who said Flint water crisis was 'overplayed' to

retire<[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/deq\\_exec\\_who\\_claimed\\_flint\\_wat.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/deq_exec_who_claimed_flint_wat.html)>

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 08/16/16 10:36AM

A top executive with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is retiring after telling investigators earlier this year that the Flint water crisis was "overplayed" and "more created than anything else." DEQ Chief Deputy Director Jim Sygo, who worked more than three decades with the state, will leave his position Aug. 31, a spokesman for the agency confirmed Monday, Aug. 15. Bob Wagner, who has served as a DEQ program director, told reporters last week that he would "be stepping in to fill Jim Sygo's shoes."

#### Mich. environmental agency's deputy director to

retire<<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/michigan/flint-water-crisis/2016/08/16/mich-environmental-agencys-deputy-director-retire/88829338/>>

By Chad Livengood, Detroit News 08/16/16 12:14 PM

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's chief deputy director plans to retire at the end of the month as a set of new leaders takes over a state agency rocked by the Flint

water crisis. Jim Sygo, a 34-year veteran of the DEQ, plans to retire on Aug. 31, department spokesman Michael Shore said Tuesday. Sygo, 67, will be replaced by Bob Wagner, a 31-year veteran DEQ program director. Sygo's retirement was not caused by the Flint water crisis, Shore said.

Michigan Senate plans hearing on new environmental quality director<<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/flint-water-crisis/2016/08/16/michigan-senate-plans-hearing-new-environmental-quality-director/88872422/>>

By AP for Detroit Free Press 08/16/16 6:48 PM

The Michigan Senate will hold a hearing on Gov. Rick Snyder's pick to lead the Department of Environmental Quality in the wake of Flint's water crisis. A spokeswoman for Senate Republicans said Tuesday that the Senate Natural Resources Committee will meet Sept. 7 to consider the appointment of Heidi Grether.

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy

U.S. Surgeon General says Flint water improving, but work still needed<[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/us\\_surgeon\\_general\\_says\\_flint.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/us_surgeon_general_says_flint.html)>

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 08/17/16 10:22 AM

Despite the federal emergency declaration coming to an end on Aug. 14, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said the federal government will still offer aid to Flint as needed in dealing with the water crisis. Murthy addressed reporters Tuesday, Aug. 16 at the American Red Cross office in Flint after meeting with local community organizations, U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Township, and Mayor Karen Weaver. "I wanted to make it clear while the declaration is ending, our commitment to support Flint is not," he said. "We will continue to be here to support Flint and it's recovery as long as it takes."

Surgeon General Murthy Visits Flint for 2nd Time This

Year<<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/surgeon-general-murthy-visits-flint-2nd-time-year-41437633>>

By AP for ABC News 08/16/16 7:40 PM

More people in Flint, Michigan, are taking advantage of added health care services, while some still need to know what's available as the city continues to move forward from a lead-tainted water crisis, according to U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. Murthy met Tuesday with community leaders and health professionals in his second visit to Flint this year. "We want people to go to the doctor, not just when they're critically ill, but well before that so they can understand what steps they need to take to keep themselves and their families healthy," he said.

Flint Water Crisis Investigations

Flint water crisis investigation turning towards spike in Legionnaires' disease

cases<<http://www.wxyz.com/news/flint-water-crisis-investigation-turning-towards-spike-in-legionnaires-disease-cases>>

By Jim Kiertzner, WXYZ ABC 7 Detroit 08/17/16 5:53 PM

The investigation into the Flint water crisis could soon take a much more serious turn with more serious charges. One possible aspect of the crisis caused a dozen people to die, by

contracting Legionnaires' disease. So far we've seen 9 officials charged with misconduct in office and willful neglect of duty for failing to warn people about the crisis. When the Michigan Attorney General started his investigation back in January, his team said involuntary manslaughter charges were possible.

Judge lets criminal Flint water cases against two DEQ employees move ahead<[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/judge\\_lets\\_criminal\\_flint\\_wate.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/judge_lets_criminal_flint_wate.html)>

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 08/17/16 5:05 PM

Preliminary examinations for the first state employees charged with crimes for their roles in the Flint water crisis can move ahead after a Genesee District Court judge denied a motion that would have required prosecutors to file more detailed allegations. Judge Jennifer Manley denied motions from attorneys for Department of Environmental Quality employees Stephen Busch and Michael Prysby Wednesday, Aug. 17, saying special prosecutors for Attorney General Bill Schuette don't have to write a bill of particulars against the pair.

Michigan democratic chair says AG Schuette ignored Flint complaints<<http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/local-news/193060302-story>>

By Tim Skubick, Fox 2 Detroit 08/17/16 5:33 PM

Despite the nine people charged by Attorney General Bill Schuette, Michigan's Democratic Chair is accusing him of ignoring pleas from the public to look into lead fears long before he launched his investigation. Brandon Dillon said Wednesday that for over a year, Flint residents complained about the color of their water long before it was determined there was lead in the water. At the end of 2015, attorney general bill Schuette concluded an investigation into the flint water crisis was not required.

Flint probe turns to deadly Legionnaires' outbreak<<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/michigan/flint-water-crisis/2016/08/17/flint-probe-turns-deadly-legionnaires-outbreak/88898024/>>

By Chad Livengood, Detroit News 08/17/16 1:08 PM

Attorney General Bill Schuette's Flint investigation is focused on whether the city's river water was the source of a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease that claimed 12 lives and if government officials could be culpable of a "very serious" charge, Special Prosecutor Todd Flood said Wednesday. After charging nine government workers over Flint's lead contamination, Flood appeared to be telegraphing the investigation's next move during an interview Wednesday morning on WDET 101.9 FM.

AG's office got Flint complaints a year before probe<<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/michigan/flint-water-crisis/2016/08/16/schuette-flint-water-complaints/88839898/>>

By Michael Gerstein, Detroit News 08/16/16 3:30 PM

Attorney General Bill Schuette's office received at least 15 complaints addressing water quality concerns in Flint — some sent a year before Schuette announced a criminal investigation into the lead contamination crisis, according to documents shared with The Detroit News. Between April 1, 2014, and Dec. 31, 2015, 14 people contacted the Attorney General's Office addressing Flint water concerns, according to records first obtained by the Michigan Information & Research Service. The residents couldn't be identified because

their names were blacked out.

#### Beyond Flint

Pringle Elementary tap tests above EPA toxic waste

level<<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/tech/science/environment/2016/08/17/pringle-elementary-tap-tests-above-epa-toxic-waste-level/88899346/>>

By Tracy Loew, Statesman Journal 08/17/16 7:10 PM

Water from a faucet at Salem's Pringle Elementary School has tested for lead at 14,000 parts per billion – more than has been found in any tap in crisis-stricken Flint, Michigan, and nearly three times the level the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers to be toxic waste. A dozen other taps at the school also had high lead levels, ranging from 15 ppb to 1,200 ppb. Four of those taps also had high copper levels. Across the Salem-Keizer School District, high lead or copper levels have been found in at least one tap at more than a third of the schools tested so far.

Prompted by Flint water crisis, Northern Va. schools begin testing for

lead<[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/prompted-by-flint-water-crisis-northern-va-schools-begin-testing-for-lead/2016/08/17/10f8152c-64a0-11e6-be4e-23fc4d4d12b4\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/prompted-by-flint-water-crisis-northern-va-schools-begin-testing-for-lead/2016/08/17/10f8152c-64a0-11e6-be4e-23fc4d4d12b4_story.html)>

By Moriah Balingit, Washington Post 08/17/16 6:48 PM

Northern Virginia school systems have begun testing water from drinking fountains, cafeteria sinks and other sources in schools for lead, a move spurred by the crisis in Flint, Mich., where officials found widespread lead contamination in water that flowed to homes and schools. Public health officials in Manassas City, Alexandria and Arlington County took samples from water fountains and school cafeterias. The tests found traces of lead in schools in all three districts, prompting officials in Manassas City and Arlington to remove drinking fountains and replace fixtures. In Alexandria, traces of lead were found in four samples, but all were well below 15 parts per billion, the threshold at which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends taking action. Fairfax County Public Schools, one of the largest districts in the nation, will test its water this fall.

Grand Rapids begins routine lead-water tests at

homes<<http://woodtv.com/2016/08/17/grand-rapids-begins-routine-lead-water-tests-at-homes/>>

By Sarah Hurwitz, WOOD TV 8 08/17/16 6:34 PM

Grand Rapids city workers have begun their rounds of testing lead-water levels in homes. On Wednesday, 24 Hour News 8 got a first-hand look at an inspection at a home in Ottawa Hills. Bob Ayres started his plumbing inspection at the bathroom before continuing onto the kitchen and basement. Ayres made sure the lead service line inside Lisa Alles' home is safe by verifying whether pipes have been replaced.

Pittsburgh Homeowners Have To Pay Up If They Don't Want Lead-Poisoned

Water<[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/pittsburgh-lead-water-crisis\\_us\\_57b357ffe4b0c75f49d895a9](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/pittsburgh-lead-water-crisis_us_57b357ffe4b0c75f49d895a9)>

By Joseph Erbentraut, Huffington Post 08/17/16 3:48 PM

It's been almost a month since a test revealed that the lead levels in Pittsburgh's drinking

water were high enough for the Environmental Protection Agency to take notice. The EPA's so-called action level is 15 parts per billion, or ppb, and levels meeting or exceeding that were found in 17 percent of the 100 homes tested in the city. Even before that testing, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto had said Veolia — a French company that manages energy, water, waste and other traditionally public services in partnership with municipalities around the world — was at least partly to blame for problems with the city's water supply. Veolia changed its corrosion control methods at the treatment plant after it was hired in 2014 to assist the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority.

#### This Region Is Twice Flint's Size—And Its Water Is Also

Poisoned<<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2016/08/californias-ag-boom-means-poisoned-water-more-least-212000-people>>

By Tom Philpott, Mother Jones 08/17/16 6:00 AM

In two of California's most productive farming regions, at least 212,000 people rely on water that's routinely unsafe to drink, with levels of a toxin above its federal limit. And even if the pollution source could be stopped tomorrow, these communities—representing a population more than twice as large as that of Flint, Michigan— would endure the effects of past practices for decades. That's the takeaway of a major new assessment by researchers at the University of California-Davis. The toxin in question is nitrate, which leaches into aquifers when farmers apply synthetic nitrogen fertilizers or large amounts of manure to fortify soil.

#### Other News

Finley: Flint models Detroit in

comeback<<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/columnists/nolan-finley/2016/08/17/finley-flint-models-detroit-comeback/88933614/>>

By Nolan Finley, Detroit News 08/17/16 11:33 PM

Visiting Flint last week, I saw something I didn't expect: Cranes. They were everywhere downtown, rebuilding historic structures, erecting new lofts and apartments, adding pieces to an already rich cultural community. For a city that's supposed to be at death's door, there's a lot of life in Flint. And a lot of faith in the future. "There's a light in the tunnel," says Mayor Karen Weaver, who came to office in January in the midst of the devastating water crisis. "We can see a better day."

Third Ward water distribution site set to move to new

location<[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/water\\_distribution\\_site\\_set\\_to.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/08/water_distribution_site_set_to.html)>

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 08/17/16 4:19 PM

A water distribution site in Flint's THird Ward is being relocated because of construction work along East Stewart Avenue. Starting noon Aug. 18, people seeking resources must go to Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church at 4805 N. Saginaw St. instead of going to the Universal Systems site on Stewart. The move was made to allow better vehicle access to bottled water, water filters, replacement cartridges and at-home water testing kits, according to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division.

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